

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

September 2012 Volume XVII Issue 5

<http://www.crfg-la.org>

4 BIG EVENTS LISTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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CRFG FESTIVAL OF FRUIT-SEPTEMBER 11-13TH IN SANTA ROSA, CA

Check out the webpage at <http://www.festivaloffruit.org>

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Date: September 22, 2012

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Place: Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA 91316

Program: David Sarif

David is a beekeeper who enjoys the art of beekeeping and has made it part of his life to raise, protect and rescue honey bees. He rescues and relocates these important and highly beneficial insects.

David is in the business of removing bees from both residential and commercial property. He has experience in Swarm Removal as well as Colony Extraction and Relocation.

David has been working with bees since 1979. So bring all your questions, from how to identify the different variety of bees, to how to attract them to your backyard, to how to help protect them from disappearing.

P.S. Our long time member, **Jenny Fox** has just celebrated her 92nd birthday! Be ready to sing "Happy Birthday"!

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!! If your last name begins with **N-Z** please bring something for our **September** tasting table. **Please label whatever you bring.**

PITAHAYA/DAGON FRUIT TASTING-*September 29th*

The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resource center will be hosting a Pitahaya/Dragon Fruit tasting and informal presentation at the Hansen Agricultural Center (formerly known as Faulkner Farms) in Santa Paula. This program will be conducted by **Jose F. De Soto**, director and **Ramiro Lobo**, UC farm advisor.

Program will take place on **September 29th from 9am to 12 noon at Hansen Agricultural Center, 14292 W. Telegraph Rd, Santa Paula, CA 93060.**

This is a great opportunity for those of you who have not been able to attend the many previous Pitahaya /Dragon Fruit Festivals held at the South Coast Extension Field Station in Irvine. (See last page to read more about the Irvine festival.) Now is the perfect chance for you to sample the many varieties of dragon fruit.

OCTOBER MEETING

Date: Saturday, October 27, 2012

Time: 10 AM

Place: Tony and Monica Stewart's garden

Program: **Tony** and **Monica** are relatively new members of our Chapter. He gardens on a hillside with terraced orchard. **The Stewarts** are growing guavas, citrus, mexican avocado varieties, nectaplums, peacotum, pluot, pomegranate, australian finger limes and more. **Tony** has also started a hydroponic garden with homemade system using common plumbing materials. His garden is an example of what can be done in limited space on a hillside in a residential neighborhood

Field Trips are for members only. If you need directions email: editor@CRFG-la.org



WORDS FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Members:

Remember those Uncle Sam recruiting posters from years back? Uncle Sam was wearing stars and stripes, red, white and blue. I once received a letter from dear old Uncle Sam. It started out with "Greetings"... It changed my life for a couple of years and including a round trip ticket, or should I say tour, to Southeast Asia. Well, I'm not Uncle Sam and I'm not dressed in old glory, but I'm recruiting I WANT YOU!!!

If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a team to run a chapter of California Rare Fruit Growers. There are many opportunities for chapter members to volunteer. We have sign up sheets available at the sign in desk, so pick one up and fill it out! Become more than a spectator! Be part of the team! I understand some have physical challenges, demanding jobs, family and other commitments but this is not a full time commitment, so help out where and when you can.

I promise we won't make you wear green clothes or send you away like they did me. Seriously, we want this great LA chapter to be more than great, we want it to be the best that it can be. And that will not happen unless we all respond and work to make it great. So come on, fill out a sign up sheet and join the team!

Working with You,

Jim Schopper

PS: May I leave you with this thought:

["The best place to find a helping hand is at the end of your own arm"](#)

Swedish proverb.

KEEPING UP WITH OUR CHAPTER

Are you aware that the Los Angeles Chapter has its own web page? Go to the front page of this (and every past newsletter), look on the top left hand-side above the list of Chapter Officers and you will see it there:

<http://www.crfg-la.org>. This is a great website that Emory Walton designed for us. Here you will find the current newsletter as well as issues going back as far as 2005. There is also a link called 'Photo Album'. This is a place for posting various pictures of the members involved in the different activities related to the Chapter. So often there is not enough space to include photos in our newsletter, so our webpage is the ideal spot for posting them.

A GENTLE REMINDER

From Chapter Treasurer, K. Payton:

Hi to each of you. Since you're with us, you know how much we value each other and our shared love and great enthusiasm for our fruit pursuits. To a (fortunately) small number of us--including special and active members--I want to make the usual plea that you pay your chapter dues, \$6 for 2012. The \$6 is essential for our operation, and we always work hard to keep the dues minimal. Please, if you have not paid for 2012, send a check made out to "**L. A. Chapter CRFG**" and mail it to "**K. Payton, 22275 Dardenne St., Calabasas, CA 91302-5869.**" You can pay for more than one year at a time.

Additionally, many of our members presently do owe or will very soon owe for another year of membership with the central organization, CRFG, Inc. Membership in CRFG requires membership first in the central organization and then chapter membership secondly.

There is no such thing as just chapter membership. So, if you are due to renew CRFG, Inc. membership, you can send to me an additional check made out to "CRFG, Inc." If you owe just for central membership, you can just send me that check.

Thanks for your attention. Each of you is extremely important to us!!!!

"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken."

- James Dent

BLUE MOON

What is a “Blue Moon?” If you looked up in the sky on August 31, you saw one for yourself.

No, the Moon wasn’t blue in color that night. A “Blue Moon” is the name given to the second full Moon in a single month.

Blue Moons occur, on average, once every 2 1/2 to 3 years. Perhaps this is why we traditionally describe an unusual event as happening “Once in a Blue Moon,” an expression that was first noted in 1821.

Why “Blue”?



For the longest time nobody knew exactly why the second full Moon of a calendar month was designated as a Blue Moon. One explanation connects it with the word “belewe” from the Old English, meaning, “to betray.” Perhaps, then, the Moon was “belewe” because it betrayed the usual perception of one full Moon per month.

In the March 1999 issue of Sky & Telescope magazine, author Phillip Hiscock revealed one somewhat confusing origin of this term. It seems that the modern custom of naming the second full Moon of a month “blue,” came from an article published in the March 1946 Sky & Telescope magazine. The article was “Once in a Blue Moon,” written by James Hugh Pruett. In this article, Pruett interpreted what he read in a publication known as the Maine Farmers’ Almanac (no relation to this Farmers’ Almanac, published in Lewiston, Maine), and declared that a second full Moon in a calendar month is a “Blue Moon.”

However, after reviewing the Maine Farmer’s Almanac, Hiscock found that during the editorship of Henry Porter Trefethen (1932 to 1957), the Maine Farmers’ Almanac made occasional reference to a Blue Moon, but derived it from a completely different (and rather convoluted) seasonal rule. As simply as can be described, according to Trefethen’s almanac, there are normally three full Moons for each season of the year. But when a particular season ends up containing four full Moons, then the third of that season is called a Blue Moon! To make matters more confusing, the beginning of the seasons listed in Trefethen’s almanac were fixed. A fictitious or dynamical mean Sun produced four seasons of equal length with dates which differed slightly from more conventional calculations. So,

basically the current use of “Blue Moon” to mean the second full Moon in a month can be traced to a 55-year-old mistake in Sky & Telescope magazine.

But Can a Moon Really Be Blue?

Sort of. At times, usually after vast forest fires or major volcanic eruptions, the Moon has reportedly taken on a bluish or lavender hue. Soot and ash particles, propelled high into the Earth’s atmosphere, can sometimes make the Moon appear bluish. Hope you didn’t miss it—the next one won’t be until 2015!

JULY SPEAKER



Always an interesting and knowledgeable speaker, **Charles Portney** emphasized the importance of taking care of the soil as he spoke to the Los Angeles Chapter at our July meeting. Not only were our members able to take away many tips for improving their soil, **Charles** provided an enormous number of plants for the Chapter to sell. We are always so grateful to Charles for his generosity and support.

(Editor’s note) It was also very rewarding to read the President’s Message in the latest *Fruit Gardener* (Sept/Oct). **Margaret Frane** sang our praises as she described our July meeting. If you haven’t gotten around to reading it, please make a point of doing so.

The thing I grow most in my garden is tired.

August Field Trip



The above picture shows **Gerry and Sandra's** vegetable garden with an ingenious method to protect their vegetable beds from the local wildlife. The cages (made from PVC piping for the cage frame) are hinged on one side to allow human access, and then are easily closed when not being accessed. They are painted annually to prevent PVC deterioration. The green color chosen for the paint was based on aesthetic considerations.

David modified the PA system to accommodate a Lithium battery, and carried the speaker/ amplifier with him throughout the tour. The system worked wonderfully and allowed everyone to clearly hear what was being said throughout the entire tour.

Gerry and Sandra were very gracious hosts. They arranged to have a small team of people direct our members from the somewhat obscure entrance to their property to appropriate places to park. They conducted a very informative tour of their extensive collection of fruit trees and vegetables, generously shared their ripened fruit with our members, offered to share cuttings of certain plants, and generally made us feel very welcomed to their beautiful home and garden.

All in all it was a wonderful tour and we thank **Gerry and Sandra** for hosting this field trip (Note-Thank you **Emory Walton** for the photo and description of the tour)

7TH ANNUAL PITAHAYA/DAGON FRUIT FESTIVAL

Held Saturday, August 23rd at the Field Station in Irvine the 7th annual Pitahaya/Dragon Fruit Festival was one of the best ever. There were 10 great speakers covering many different subjects. Thanks to fabulous weather, the trip to the pitahaya plantation couldn't have been better. After the visit to the fields, there were 3 more short presentations, followed by the wonderful selection of almost 24 varieties for tasting as well as a sorbet and ice cream made from the dragonfruit/pitahaya. The folks attending this two day event were very pleased. You could see the happiness in their faces and hear their wonderful and positive comments. Of course, they were extremely happy to get free cuttings of the varieties they had tasted. There was also plenty fruit to be taken home.

Thank you **Ramiro Lobo, Gary Tanizaki, Edgar,** the team and the University for all their hard work.



A wide selection of /dragon fruit to sample



Ramiro Lobo, Jose De Soto and Gary Tanizaki